

## Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Certificated Operator

In accordance with Section 3110 of the Michigan Act, a permitted CAFO must be under supervision and control of a person or persons certified by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Water Division of the Department of Environmental Quality administers certifications examinations for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Operators.

The certified operator may be someone who works at the facility, a regional corporate environmental manager, a consultant, owner, or anyone else the permittee designates to receive certification.

Responsibility of operator is to supervise the CAFO's control measures included in the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and permit requirements. The CNMP describes the production practices, equipment, and structures and the proper management of agricultural waste. The CNMP is a farm-specific management tool. The NPDES permit outlines additional record-keeping, provides for specific minimum best management practices, and reporting the CAFO owner is responsible for.

The Water Division staff will make the exam available at the district offices (see attached map for contact information). The CAFO exam includes questions on environmental protection, NPDES CAFO permit requirements, CNMP requirements, and best management practices.

Certificates are issued and renewed by the Operator Training Unit. CAFO Certification is valid for 5 years from the year it is issued. If your home address or place of employment changes, please update your address with our office within 30 days of the change.

In the year that your certificate expires on July 1, you may apply for renewal beginning in January of that year. Download and complete the "Renewal Application", and mail it to the address indicated. Do not fax or email the application; original signatures are required.

To change your address, or for information regarding certification renewal contact:

Bruce Lack 517-373-4755  
[lackb@michigan.gov](mailto:lackb@michigan.gov)